



Key English Resources on Findmypast.com

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General Search

- Useful for discovering new record sets you may not be aware of or unexpected records.
- Can search across many localities at once.
- Use caution when assuming an entry is your ancestor—there may be many people with the same name or basic information.
- Best with an advanced search to narrow down results by category.

Advanced Search

- Can narrow down results by category and even record set.
- Enter in what you know—best to keep date ranges more wide and less specific at the beginning.
- Always check the name variants box—spelling wasn't standardized, and you may find an ancestor's name spelled a variety of different ways, even in the same family.

All Record Sets

- Most effective search
- Searching one database at a time increases the odds that you will find the person you are searching for.
 - Can narrow down localities to the parish level if you select a church record collection.
- Can filter by county, location, and dates.
 - Filtering will also include any broader database that includes that place, such as a nationwide census.
- Keyword box:
 - Typing in a keyword (Example: a county, a religious denomination, topic) will limit the results to all databases with that word in the title.
 - Most smaller record sets are on the county level (Example: typing a parish name on all record sets page will be too narrow).
- Several ways to access:
 - On advanced search page.
 - Quick links on home page.
 - Main menu at top under Search
 - Direct link: <https://www.findmypast.com/search/historical-records?region=united-kingdom>

England Parish Registers

- Once you've selected a specific county or diocese collection:
 - Can scroll down to the bottom below the search page
 - Select parish list: will give all the parishes included in that collection and the dates included
 - Knowing this information helps to know if you aren't finding an ancestor because you have the wrong information, or if the records you need are not included in that database.

Roman Catholic Records

- Typing in Roman Catholic in the keyword search and narrowing the filter to Britain will bring up all the UK Roman Catholic records on Findmypast.
 - Separate databases for baptisms, marriages, and burials.
 - Selecting a database that ends in browse allows you to search through the images of a particular place page-by-page if you aren't finding them in the indexed records (can't search by someone's name).
 - <https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/england-roman-catholic-parish-registers-browse>
- Some databases also include other nonconformist records.

British Newspapers

Direct link: <https://search.findmypast.com/search/british-newspapers>

Can also access two other ways:

- Under all categories for England select Special Collection: Newspapers & Periodicals
- Or select Newspapers & periodicals from the Quick links on the main page

Searching the newspapers:

- Can select British newspapers as an option
- Can search by name, and can add keywords
- Narrowing search results
 - By date range
 - By place
 - By county
 - By specific newspaper
 - By article type